

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania/Yugoslavia

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT Border Defenses

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REQUIREMENT NO.

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PLACE ACQUIRED

BY CABLE

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The entire Rumanian-Yugoslav border, except along the Danube River and one or two other isolated spots, is protected in the following manner:

1. On the Yugoslav side weeds and shrubs grow right to the border and provide cover to a height of 1½ to 3 feet except where Yugoslavs are now putting in plowed strips approximately 30 feet wide right on the border line.
2. One yard inside the Rumanian border there is an eight foot high barbed wire fence with 26 strands of standard gauge taut barbed wire including a strand embedded in the ground and six strands in a Y-shaped cornice. This fence is supported by a one-foot thick post every twenty feet and by taut crisscrossed barbed wire.
3. Approximately every four hundred to eight hundred yards, depending on the terrain, and approximately 150 yards back from the fence, are 25-foot high control towers with three guards who are equipped with 7 by 30 power binoculars and machine guns. There is no infrared or communications equipment except flags and rockets. These towers do not have searchlights. Every third tower also has an officer in charge and one field phone.
4. The first 20 to 100 yards within the fence is unplowed and at present grows 1½ to 3 feet high in wild wheat, weeds and poppies. A six-foot strip immediately within the fence is said to be free of traps and mines but the remainder of this area is heavily mined. Within three feet of the fence there is a path trodden through the weeds by patrols which check the fence each dawn, actually placing pressure on wires to check the tautness. The morning check patrol at the fence consists of an officer and three soldiers but no dogs.
5. Beyond the uncultivated strip there begins a ten to 15 yard wide strip plowed to a depth of approximately eight inches and smoothed out with a drag every few days. At each side of this strip there is a path followed by patrols consisting of an officer and two or three men approximately every three to five hours day and night. Patrols at this strip use dogs only when footprints are found. The patrols go in direct line only and do not cut back and forth. Each patrol covers the entire

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distance between the first and third tower or approximately 1,200 to 1,500 yards. At night two of the guards carry along a large carbon light and check for footprints. Recently, heavy rains have turned the earth into mire at a number of places along the border but footprints still remain visible.

6. Beyond the plowed strip there is an unfilled area of approximately 800 yards where, as a general rule, the peasants are not permitted to work and which now is covered with wild wheat, weeds, and poppies to a height of 1½ to 3 feet. This area is allegedly filled with mines and trip wires. It has been observed that at infrequent intervals of approximately 800 yards there are fields of cultivated wheat which come up to the plowed strip and in which a heavy stand of wheat is now approximately two feet high. Very few peasants are allowed in this area and none are seen before 7 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
7. Behind the uncultivated area there are reportedly paths through which patrols with dogs pass at unknown intervals and where at certain points dogs are staked at night. Behind these paths there are wheat fields and at a distance of three to eight miles small villages can be seen. Between these villages locally recruited civilian patrols are located. Back of the villages along the roads and paths there are mounted militia.
8. The entire area consists of gently rolling meadow land with infrequent trees or rows of trees along the roads but no hedges or trees lead from the border to the interior.

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